

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARYINSPECTOR OF THE ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the St. Albans Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In view of the increasing pressure of work of local authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper the Minister of Health has directed that interim reports only should be submitted for the year 1940.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population (at census 1931) 9,067 males and 10,504 females
(19,571).

Estimated resident population (1940) 25,350.

Number of inhabited houses 5,844.

Number of houses erected during the year by the Council, nil.

Number of houses erected during the year by private enterprise, 24.

Birth rate per 1,000 population, 11.2

Death rate per 1,000 population, 8.1

Deaths under one year per 1,000 births, 40.

MORTALITY TABLE.

Of the 204 deaths during the year 19 were due to Cancer or Malignant Disease, 51 to Heart Disease, 12 to Circulatory Diseases, 6 to Pneumonia, 14 to Bronchitis and 9 to Tuberculosis.

Infant Mortality.

Of the 16 deaths of infants under one year, 2 were due to Premature Birth and 8 to Congenital Malformation and Birth injuries.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year were as follows:-

Scarlet Fever ..	18	Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2
Diphtheria	16	Whooping Cough	20
Erysipelas	12	Measles	84
Pneumonia	14	Enteric Fever	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non- Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non- Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1								
5			2					
10		1	1					
15								
20		1	1	1		1		
25	2	2						
35	1	3		1		4		
45		4	1		2			
55			1					
65	1	2			1	1		
	4	13	6	2	3	6	-	-

SEWERAGE and WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

The sewerage scheme for the Parish of Redbourn was completed during the year, and the work in connection with the water supply scheme for this Parish was well advanced at the end of the year.

HOUSING.

Owing to the need for additional housing accommodation and in accordance with the terms of Circular 2156 issued by the Ministry of Health on the 24th September, 1940, 29 houses which had been the subject of Clearance Orders or Demolition Orders or, in respect of which, undertakings not to re-occupy had been accepted, were re-occupied as a temporary war-time measure.

STATUTORY NUISANCES.

One Abatement Notice was served and 108 complaints of alleged nuisances were dealt with informally.

MILK SUPPLY.

All registered premises were visited and it was found that, having regard to all the circumstances, a fairly good standard was being maintained. In a small number of cases, mainly owing to the difficulty in obtaining sufficient experienced labour, there was a tendency to neglect the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, particularly in respect of the limewashing of cowsheds. The lack of sufficient light and ventilation in a considerable number of cowsheds, due to black-out precautions, was very marked.

There are 58 registered cowsheds in the district and 60 persons or firms registered as retail purveyors of milk.

The following licences are in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:-

<u>Designation.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Licensing Authority.</u>
Tuberculin Tested Milk (production of)	6	County Council.
Accredited Milk (production of)	19	County Council.
Dealer's Licence in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk.	1	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licence respect- ing sale of Pasteurised Milk.	3	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licence respect- ing sale of Accredited Milk.	2	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licence respect- ing sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk.	2	Sanitary Authority.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940 made by the Minister of Food, which came into operation on January 15th, 1940 provides that, with certain exceptions, no person shall for human consumption, slaughter or cause to be slaughtered any livestock, as defined in the Order, except with the authority of the Minister of Food.

In connection with this Order the Minister of Food arranged that slaughter for sale should not be carried out except at -

- (a) certain slaughterhouses provided by local authorities;
- (b) certain other slaughterhouses, of which the Minister of Food has taken possession.

The slaughterhouse in the occupation of Messrs. L.H. & F. Dawson at High Street, Sandridge was taken over by the Ministry of Food on January 15th and throughout the remainder of the year almost the whole of the home-killed meat for all butchering establishments in the City of St. Albans, Hatfield Rural District and Welwyn Garden City was handled thereat. All other private slaughterhouses in the District ceased to be used but their licences under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 were not withdrawn.

During the year the carcasses of 22,419 animals were inspected. This figure includes all animals slaughtered at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse from January 15th to the end of the year and also the animals inspected at private slaughterhouses during the first two weeks of the year and before the restriction on slaughtering came into operation. Details are as follows:-

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Carcases inspected (at the Government slaughterhouse and at private slaughterhouses).	3,532	15,968	955	1,964

Condemnations.

	<u>Carcases.</u>	<u>Quarters of Beef.</u>	<u>Heads & Tongues.</u>	<u>Livers.</u>	<u>Lights.</u>	<u>Pluck.</u>
Cattle.	72	23	301	987	465	-
Sheep.	86	-	-	347	-	-
Calves.	7	-	1	-	-	5
Pigs.	14	-	111	-	-	37

We are,

Your obedient servants,

RICHARD PATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., M.R. San. I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

